IN THE CLAIMS

The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows:

1. (*Original*) An image forming apparatus having a normal standby mode, and a reduced power consumption mode in which less electric power is consumed than in the normal standby mode, comprising:

a first control circuit that controls processing related to image formation;

a second control circuit operable when the image forming apparatus is in the reduced power consumption mode, for carrying out part of operations of said first control circuit carried out when the image forming apparatus is in the normal standby mode; and

a detecting device that detects a status of the image forming apparatus;

wherein:

said first control circuit responds to an externally input status request when the image forming apparatus is in the normal standby mode, and enters an inoperative state where it does not respond to the externally input status request when the image forming apparatus is in the reduced power consumption mode; and

said second control circuit responds to the externally input status request on behalf of said first control circuit when the image forming apparatus is in the reduced power consumption mode.

2. (*Original*) An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein when the image forming apparatus shifts from the normal standby mode to the reduced power consumption mode, said first control circuit transfers status information indicative of the status of the image forming apparatus assumed upon the shift from the normal standby mode to the reduced power consumption mode.

3. (*Original*) An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said second control circuit consumes less electric power than said first control circuit.

4. (*Currently Amended*) An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, comprising a third control circuit that transmits status information indicative of the status of the image forming apparatus detected by said detecting device to said first control circuit when the image forming apparatus is in the normal standby mode, and a switching device that switches a transmission destination of the status information from said ~~third~~first control circuit to said second control circuit when the image forming apparatus shifts from the normal standby mode to the reduced power consumption mode.

5. (*Original*) An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said second control circuit outputs to said first control circuit a start instruction signal for causing said first control circuit to be started when the image forming apparatus receives an externally input start request or an externally input job in the reduced power consumption mode.

6. (*Original*) An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein after outputting the start instruction signal to said first control circuit, said second control circuit transfers status information indicative of the status of the image forming apparatus detected by said detecting device and held by said second control circuit to said first control circuit.

7. (*Original*) An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said second control circuit receives a sleep signal indicative of whether the image forming apparatus is in the reduced power consumption mode or not.

8. (*Original*) An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, comprising a plurality of power supplies including a power supply to said second control circuit, and wherein said second control circuit turns off the power supplies other than the power supply to said second control circuit when the image forming apparatus shifts from the normal standby mode to the reduced power consumption mode.

9. (*Original*) An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said detecting device

comprises a first sensor group that detects a change in the status of the image forming apparatus, and a second sensor group that detects contents of the change detected by said first sensor group, and wherein said second control circuit maintains said first sensor group in an energized state and said second sensor group in a deenergized state when the image forming apparatus is in the reduced power consumption mode.

10. (*Original*) An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein when the image forming apparatus is in the reduced power consumption mode, said second control circuit brings said second sensor group into the energized state upon detection of a change in the status of the image forming apparatus by said first sensor group.

11. (*Original*) An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein said second control circuit causes said second sensor group to be intermitted energized.

12. (*Original*) A control method of controlling an image forming apparatus having a normal standby mode, and a reduced power consumption mode in which less electric power is consumed than in the normal standby mode, the image forming apparatus comprising a first control circuit that controls processing related to image formation, a second control circuit operable when the image forming apparatus is in the reduced power consumption mode, for carrying out part of operations of said first control circuit carried out when the image forming apparatus is in the normal standby mode, and a detecting device that detects a status of the image forming apparatus, the control method comprising the steps of:

causing the first control circuit to respond to an externally input status request when the image forming apparatus is in the normal standby mode; and

causing the first control circuit to enter an inoperative state where it does not respond to the externally input status request and causing the second control circuit to respond to the externally input status request on behalf of said first control circuit, when the image forming apparatus is in the reduced power consumption mode.